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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): K. YOSHIWARA, et al

Serial No.: 09/917,705

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: METHOD OF DETECTING DEFECTIVE PIXELS OF A SOLID-
STATE IMAGE PICK-UP DEVICE AND IMAGE-PICKUP
APPARATUS USING THE SAME

Group: 2612

Examiner:

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OCT 02 2002

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 30, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully
submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

A1
The present invention is achieved on the basis of the Inventors' discovery that
a video signal level of a normal pixel is the same degree as video signal levels of
surrounding pixels thereof in an overwhelming majority and accordingly a value of
the video signal level of the normal pixel is the same degree as a average value of
the video signal levels of the surrounding pixels, whereas, for example, when a white
defect occurs in a video due to a defective pixel, a value of a video signal level
(defect signal level) of the defective pixel (pixel causing white defect) is relatively